

REMARKS

This amendment is filed concurrently with a continuation application filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)(2), which claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/968,566 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 120.

This Preliminary Amendment should be entered before calculating the filing fee. The total number of claims filed with this Application is 48 and the number of independent claims is 11.

It is not believed that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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